

TOP SECRET

Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. S. Klaus
 FROM : L. A. Knapp
 SUBJECT: Paper Clip Project

REVIEWED BY *[Signature]* DATE: August 23, 1946

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
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The following are my points on this project.

1. It is obvious that to bring over here the personnel contemplated by this project would conflict with our inter-American safehaven policy as reflected in Mexico Resolution VII and Resolution XXVI of the Committee for Political Defense of Montevideo, as well as that of the Allied Control Council's programs for repatriation of dangerous Germans from neutral and other countries. Many dangerous Germans were not active members of the Nazi Party. Many of them also could not be deemed "active supporters of Nazism or militarism", since that test most probably is subjective in character and, by the same token, limited in scope and application. In our other programs we apply objective tests, such as connection or leadership in organizations or enterprises of any character which aided or assisted the Nazi cause. This conflict is all the sharper when you bear in mind that the purposes of the project is to bring Germans to the United States, as a result of which those administering the project will have the burden of establishing ineligibility. This they will tend to do only in the most flagrant cases and without intensive investigation.

2. At the present time our authorities in Germany are not considering the applications of any Germans to emigrate from Germany to the Western Hemisphere. Here again is a conflict.

3. These conflicts will immediately be pointed out by the press and will demand a reasonable explanation. No such explanation is possible except the one that this is in effect a military operation, that these people are being brought to this country for exploitation on technical security subjects, and that their presence here constitutes a form of military custody, and involves no arrangements or understandings for entry under the immigration laws.

4. To lay an honest foundation for such an explanation, the plan must be modified accordingly on the immigration feature. With that modification it would not be so important that standards were employed from the safehaven viewpoint.

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